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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Report of the Second Committee (Part IV)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/52/629, para. 2). Action was taken on sub-item (c) at the 42nd, 49th and 51st meetings, on 17 November, 5 and 9 December 1997. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.42, 49 and 51).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/52/L.21 and A/C.2/52/L.55

2. At the 42nd meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/52/L.21), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995, and 51/184 of 16 December 1996, and other relevant resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/52/629 and addenda.

"Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1]

"Welcoming the convening of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held at Kyoto, Japan, from 1 to 10 December 1997,

"Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for its offer to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

"Calling upon all States to strive for a successful outcome of the Berlin Mandate[2] process,

"Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change,

"Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the results of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties prepared in response to the invitation of the General Assembly as contained in paragraph 6 of resolution 51/184,

"Noting with regret that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 51/184 has not been submitted on time, and stressing that this has prevented Member States from addressing the concerned issues in a timely manner,

"1. Notes the ongoing process of the review of the administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters established in the context of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997, and the arrangements made for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1996-1997, as requested in paragraph 10 of resolution 50/115 and paragraph 3 of resolution 51/184;

"2. Decides to maintain the arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters established in regard to the provision of administrative support to the secretariat of the Convention, as noted in resolution 51/184;

"3. Also decides to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, entailing eight weeks of conference-servicing facilities envisaged for that biennium;

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[1] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[2] FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1.

"4. Invites the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and following the outcome of the third session of the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention;

"5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'."

3. At the 49th meeting, on 5 December, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77) and China (see A/C.2/52/SR.49).

4. At the 51st meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/52/L.55), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.21.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/52/SR.51).

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.55, draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995 and 51/184 of 16 December 1996 and other relevant resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[3]

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[3] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change,

Taking note of the statement of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the results of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties prepared in response to the invitation of the General Assembly as contained in paragraph 6 of resolution 51/184,

Noting with regret that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/115 and 51/184 was not submitted on time,

1. Welcomes the convening of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Kyoto, Japan, from 1 to 10 December 1997;

2. Calls upon all States to strive for a successful outcome of the Berlin Mandate[4] process;

3. Notes the ongoing process of the review of the administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters established in the context of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997, and the arrangements made for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1996-1997, as requested in paragraph 10 of its resolution 50/115 and paragraph 3 of its resolution 51/184;

4. Decides to maintain the arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters established in regard to the provisions of administrative support to the secretariat of the Convention, for the biennium 1998-1999, taking into account the review of the functioning of the institutional linkage called for in its resolution 50/115, and as reiterated in its resolution 51/184;

5. Also decides to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, entailing eight weeks of conference-servicing facilities envisaged for that biennium;

6. Invites the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and following the outcome of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

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[4] FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1.

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".